MMR_0225 Clark Kooning

Above: Clark Kooning, MMR, explained both the process of building a turnout as well as the tools, templates, and fixtures needed for the work. Clark is a very skilled and knowledgeable modeler. His clinics are second to none.

Clark Kooning, MMR

I would ask the membership of the NMRA for your support for the position of NMRA Vice President of Administration. I have come up through the Division, Region holding positions from Vice President to Region President on two occasions. For the past 21 years first I have acted on your behalf as a regional trustee and then as the NMRA Director for Canada. I was one of driving forces in the development of the Australian, British and Canadian format which we have today. This resulted in unheard of growth of membership in these areas, including renewal of interest with involvement in the NMRA. I also earned my MMR and put that to use in the development and production of the very successful program called Modeling with the Master, in which we have had over 2700 members take part in hands on learning with the aid and instruction of NMRA Master Model Railroaders. In addition I have received the volunteer of the year award, and a President's Award for my recent time on the NMRA Board.

In my personal life I am Paramedic, and I am in ongoing education for the obvious medical courses, but I have also taken several administration courses in which I have used in both the hobby world and in real life as a Past Supervisor and Acting Paramedic Superintendent. My personal work history will serve me well in the future, working closely with the NMRA Board, with the next NMRA President and working closely with our administration staff in Chattanooga at NMRA Headquarters who I know and value

Today, times have changed from even 10 years ago and we as an organization need to change with the times yet not forget the history we have written in the past. There are several challenges ahead of us which the NMRA will need to move forward with good solid leadership and consultations with all members. I know the value in our organization starts with the sole member and those in local divisions and in the fact it is the fellowship and fun which we share in all levels that makes us strong.

I believe in the NMRA, and the members of the NMRA. I believe in its core values of Education, Standards and the Promotion of the hobby. I also fully understand we are also in a business of a hobby organization. This, in my view, means we create an organization that is a successful business model however not losing sight to the fact we are an organization that is responsive to the changing times we live in, plus never losing the sight of our core values and that of the membership. We have started on this path of growth and change and I would like the opportunity to work with you on this mission for the better of the NMRA and you the member and in turn our hobby of Model Railroading. I would appreciate your support in my endeavour to support you the NMRA member.

Clark has been active in model railroading since he was 5 years old like many starting out with Lionel train, he got for a birthday present. After going thru school and becoming a Paramedic he has been active in both NMRA Division, NFR Regional, and NMRA National boards. Along the way,

he earned his MMR #225 and has won several Division, Regional, and National model contests with his models in N, HO, and S scales. Most recent position with the NMRA was Admin VP 2015-2018.

As Clark did clinics, he saw a need to deliver a different type of clinic, he developed the Modeling with the Master's Program and was the first Lead Instructor and manager of the program. Since the start of MWTM in 1998, Clark has taught all but 2 sessions of MWTM to date.

MWTM was developed to have Hands 0n Learning rather than just a slide show type of clinic. Since then, the program has had over 2900 participants go thru the program at both regional, weekend, and national events.

Currently, Clark is doing several podcasts including Model Rail Radio along with many Zoom events such as NMRA X clinics, NMRA National 2021 Virtual Convention, and New Tracks Modeling providing virtual clinics and views on model railroading.

Clark is retired from being the MWTM Manager after Salt Lake and will continue to teach in MWTM as requested. After NMRA and work-life as a front-line Paramedic for over 34 yrs., Clark enjoys building his new layout and fishing in his retirement while working with his local Model railroad Club in Elliot Lake, Ontario. Canada.